THE LAND LETTERS

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FARM PONDS

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There is something about small bodies of water that people like. They love to hear the flop of fish on a quiet evening or to see the trees mirrored in the water's surface on a moonlight night. Who would not want to build a pond just to enjoy such experiences at will? But ponds also play a vital part in the practical economy of an inland people. We need many more **good** ponds.

In the August 14 issue of the Portsmouth Ohio Times, there appeared a full page ad by a leading department store. This ad announced to farmers the location of free water hydrants on all roads leading into the city. The county commissioners of Scioto County have equipped two 1,000-gallon trucks to deliver water to farmers. The driver of one of these trucks told me he was hauling water as far as 25 miles. Two Warren County farmers built ponds for less than it cost them to haul water for one season. One of the best livestock farmers in Ohio spent $1,000 drilling for water and failed. Last summer he constructed a farm pond for less than one-half this amount. I saw this pond on August 7. He has watered 100 head of Herford cattle from it and, in spite of one of the worst drouths in history, the water surface was only 30 inches below pool stage. No farmer can continue indefinitely in livestock farming if he has to haul water, without eventually going broke.

Commercial fruit growers require large quantities of water for spraying their trees. I have seen water hauled an average distance of one mile for spraying a hundred-acre orchard. Three small ponds, carefully located, were constructed in this orchard. The power and labor saved more than paid for these ponds the first season. This grower is now able to do his spraying more timely and thus improve both the quantity and quality of his fruit.

Fruit and vegetable growers in the humid areas often find it profitable to supplement natural rainfall with irrigation. Under favorable conditions ponds may be used for storing natural runoff for irrigation. The grower, considering a pond for irrigation, must know that to apply one inch of water to an acre requires 27,150 gallons. In other words, irrigation requires lots of water—a fact which the western irrigation farmer knows quite well.

Many rural areas have the protection of a well organized and equipped fire department. But the best fire fighting equipment in the country is useless without an adequate supply of water within a reasonable distance of the buildings. Ordinary farm wells are not satisfactory for fighting fires and cisterns are frequently too small or too nearly dry when the fire occurs to be effective. Ponds are an ideal source of water for fighting rural fires. Frequently a pond may serve more than one farmstead.

Few farmers would consider building a pond for any of the reasons above without thinking of fish. In fact, in many cases the thought of growing fish is the real reason and some of the other things furnish the excuse for building the pond. But fish ponds need neither excuse nor apology. A well managed fish pond is an economic asset to any farm and fishing is a most wholesome form of recreation. The Division of Conservation and Natural Resources in most states will give information on fish management.

A farm pond surrounded by proper plantings is a haven for many desirable forms of wildlife other than fish. Farmer's Bulletin No. 1879, Ponds for Wildlife, gives many practical suggestions for developing the total wildlife possibilities of the pond.

Ponds will cause the ground water table to rise for varying distances around them. If too much water goes into the soil through seepage, the pond may go dry in periods of extended drouth. Many farmers report an improvement in their wells located near the pond.

It is sometimes claimed that more farm ponds will cause an increase in the total rainfall. There is little or no definite scientific evidence to support this claim.

Most successful farm ponds are constructed in small watersheds. An increase in the number of such ponds does offer possibilities of reducing flood crests in the streams below. Ponds may reduce the amount of silt reaching the streams and filling their channels. But ponds that catch large amounts of silt will not be ponds very long. Soil should be kept out of the pond by soil conservation measures in the tributary watershed.

A large percentage of farmer designed and farmer constructed ponds fail within the first year. A successful pond requires a careful study of local rainfall and watershed characteristics by persons experienced in this type of work. Many think the engineer's design calls for too much width of fill and too much spillway capacity. They fail to realize that ponds must be designed for the most severe condition of rainfall and runoff to be expected during a period of years.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Meeting the requirements of the By-Laws of the Friends of the Land, the members of the Board of Directors have been notified that the semi-annual meeting will be held at Athens, Ohio. The meeting is called for June 29, at 8:00 P.M., and for Saturday morning, June 30, at the Berry Hotel, Athens, Ohio. The meeting is being held at this location since many of our directors and officers will be in attendance at the Fourth Annual Conference on Conservation, Nutrition, and Human Health.

THE CHAPTER ROUND-UP

The wartime programs of the various chapters of Friends of the Land follow that of the school year. This is but natural until such a time as travel restrictions are lifted and we can once again have the benefit of field trips. During the past year the chapters have been busy in their own communities broadening their own education and stimulating the interest of their neighbors.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

The **Pennsylvania Chapter** at Philadelphia held another of its splendid annual Conservation Forums, inviting the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society to be co-sponsor of the project. On Tuesday, February 20th, at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel, they spent the day in considering the problems of conservation. At the morning session Dr. Alfred H. Williams, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia presided. P. A. Waring, co-author of "Roots in the Earth" and President of the chapter, opened the meeting with words of welcome, followed by Chester C. Davis, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and also of Friends of the Land, who spoke on "The City and the Land." The morning program was concluded by Dean Thorndike Saville, School of Engineering of New York University, whose subject was "The Wise Use of Water Resources."

The afternoon session was under the leadership of Francis A. Pitkin, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania State Planning Board. The welcome was extended by Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr., Vice Provost, University of Pennsylvania and Director of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Following this the Honorable James H. Duff, Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, spoke on "Public Participation in Pennsylvania's Conservation Program." The Honorable Miles Horst, Secretary of Agriculture for Pennsylvania, then gave an address on "Agriculture's Interest in Conservation." This, in turn, was followed by the ceremonial presentation of the Award to a Farm Family Typical of the Pennsylvania Way of Life. The meeting concluded with the showing of the U. S. D. A. Soil Conservation Service picture, "For Years to Come."

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

The **Memphis Chapter** has done a splendid job, both in self-education and in arousing state-wide interest. To effect this several meetings have been held. The January 1944 meeting was a dinner meeting at the Peabody Hotel, which was attended by 448 persons. Chester C. Davis of St. Louis, national President of the Friends of the Land was the guest speaker.

In May of the same year the chapter co-sponsored with the Lumberman's Club a dinner meeting at the Peabody, at which the guest speaker was Harold G. Hebb, in charge of the Management Program of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association. Two hundred and twenty-one persons attended. Last December at the Annual Meeting, after the election of officers, Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk, Assistant Chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, addressed the chapter.

Persons attending numbered about 332. In April of this year a joint luncheon meeting was held with the Memphis Agricultural Club. The guest speaker was Dr. William A. Albrecht from the University of Missouri, with 180 persons attending. And in May the chapter co-sponsored a luncheon with the Kiwanis Club. The guest speaker was Dr. Roy Morton, professor of Sanitary Engineering, Vanderbilt University.

OKLAHOMA CITY CHAPTER

The **Oklahoma City Chapter** continued this year the tradition last year of participating in "The Oklahoma Save-the-Soil Clinic" in cooperation with fourteen other state agencies and organizations on April 19th. The clinic was conducted by the Honorable Robert S. Kerr, Governor of the State of Oklahoma. The program consisted of an all-day tour of the Ella D. Classen farm just outside of the city. There were nineteen stops with a demonstration of some important steps in soil conservation practice at each stop. This tour was made in small groups under the general direction of Word Cromwell, the County Agent.

At noon a complimentary "Clay Potts" barbecue luncheon was served to all through the courtesy of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and under the supervision of Clay Potts himself, of the Oklahoma A. & M. College. Following the luncheon a short program was presented. F. C. Dunaway, Vice-President of the State Soil Conservation District Association, spoke on "Soil Conservation Districts in Operation." Louis Derr of the Soil Conservation Service talked on "Soil Conservation Surveys in District Programs," The printed programs contained the Plan Map of the farm being used for the demonstration. H. P. Moffett, State Administrative officer of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, told of the part his agency played in such programs.

The Chapter is to be congratulated for being able to stage such a fine educational clinic, having all the advantages of an extended field trip without putting any strain upon the transportation facilities in war time.

COLUMBUS CHAPTER

The **Columbus Chapter** continued its mutual educational program under the presidency of Charles Dambach, Assistant Director of the Ohio Wildlife Research Station, by a monthly meeting held regularly on the last Monday evening of each month at the Southern Hotel, thanks to the hospitality of Mr. Trent Sickles, Manager of the Hotel.

The first meeting of this year was held on October 30th, at which time R. D. Lewis, Ph.D., Chairman of the Department of Agronomy at the Ohio State University, spoke on "The Contributions of Plant Breeding to Food Production in Ohio." Dr. Lewis and his staff have been in the forefront of this fascinating research.

The November meeting was very informative. Mr. E. J. Bath of the Ohio Farm Bureau discussed "The Influence of Conservation on Taxation". These interrelationships are most striking and vital to the social and economic welfare of the state and nation.

At the January meeting H. E. Hecker, District Conservationist, U. S. Soil Conservation Service at Mount Gilead, Ohio, presented an illustrated account of his experiences during the last summer while acting as a special consultant to the Canadian Government on soil conservation problems in the Province of Ontario.

At the February meeting Dean John F. Cunningham of the College of Agriculture of the Ohio State University and Chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee, told how the soil conservation program has been accepted by the Ohio farmer and discussed in detail the question, "Can Soil Conservation Districts Function?"

At the March meeting William E. Kraus, Chief of the Dairy Department, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster, Ohio and member of the Sub-Committee on Food Supply of the National Research Council's Committee on Nutrition, gave an excellent resume of the data on the capacity of the United States of America to produce an adequate supply of food.

The Annual Dinner Meeting was held on April 30th, with Ralph M. Kriebel of Purdue University as the guest speaker. In the afternoon the Program Committee arranged for the showing of several educational films and a talk, "Conservation as a Naturalist Sees It," by Arthur R. Harper, Naturalist of the State Division of Conservation and Natural Resources. The films were "For Years to Come" from the Soil Conservation Ser-

THE CHAPTER ROUND-UP

vice; "Green Acres" of the National Fertilizer Association; "Strength of the Hills," a U. S. Department of Agriculture release; and a preview of the Ford-Ferguson film, "It Can Happen Here." The committee on arrangements presented in the corridor a series of exhibits, viz., "Pre-Glacial Rivers in Ohio" by Dr. Wilbur Stout, State Geologist; "Present and Future Water Storage in Ohio," by David C. Warner, Division of Public Works; over one hundred photographs of "Natural History and Conservation" loaned by the Division of Conservation; an earthworm exhibit by Miss Bernice Warner of the Ohio Earthworm Farm at Worthington, Ohio; and "How a Soil Conservation District Works" exhibited by the Soil Conservation Service.

At the May meeting John Grierson of Hillsboro, Ohio, a rural banker and member of the State Soil Conservation Committee, discussed the social and economic implications of Soil Conservation Districts. Mr. Grierson is definitely one of the most inspirational speakers this group has heard. They hope to have him for a return engagement.

CHICAGO CHAPTER

The **Chicago Chapter's** Annual Meeting and election of officers was held at the Palmer House on November 27th, 1944. National President Chester Davis was the chief speaker, discussing "Soils and Men." Also on the program was Sam Burkhart, Jr., State Winner of the National 4-H Club Conservation Contest, of whom his County Agent says, "In soil conservation projects Sam has taken the lead over his father in forwarding the plans in work being done."

WESTERN RESERVE CHAPTER

The **Western Reserve Chapter** held a very worthwhile program in connection with the Annual Meeting of the whole society, in Cleveland during December 1944. This Forum was conducted during the afternoon and evening of the day preceding the Annual Meeting.

Among the activities since that time was a local meeting in February addressed by Mr. Livingston Ireland, President of the Hanna Coal Company, who discussed the coal mining industry with particular attention to strip mining.

In April Mr. H. R. Klepinger of the American Steel Wire Company gave a most stimulating address on "Industry Looks at Conservation." Mr. Phil Eckert, Agricultural Economist of the Cleveland Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank, was scheduled for a later meeting but the meeting was postponed. Some of our members may be interested in the new booklet prepared by Mr. Eckert and issued by the Cleveland Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank explaining the new farm loan plans based on improvements in conservation practices. These loans are made upon the evidence that conservation pays.

The Western Reserve Chapter is investigating a project which may develop and become of national significance. A special committee is making a study of the reclaiming of fats and organic matter from garbage as opposed to incineration. Indianapolis has had a program in which the salvage of the grease alone returned $125,000 to the city. In addition, approximately fifty carloads of fertilizer and half that amount of feed are extracted from the garbage at an additional saving. The present method of garbage disposal in many cities destroys forever the organic matter contained in the garbage, which is so essential to plant and animal health. It should be returned to the soil which supports the city. This problem is so important that it may well be a project which may be considered by Friends of the Land Chapters in many parts of the nation.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

At Atlanta a committee consisting of Channing Cope, C. F. Evans, Mrs. Albert Thornton, J. C. Haynes and Kendall Weisiger met with Mr. Fink and discussed plans to promote an active chapter in Atlanta. Mr. Channing Cope, who has done so much as President of the Kudzu Club to improve and restore the agricultural acres of the South, is accepting the leadership at the request of the members of the committee. We anticipate an active group in Atlanta in the not-too-distant future.

At this point the Secretary wishes to report his very interesting visit to Mr. Cope's farm, where the erosion control work of Kudzu was apparent. The beautiful green fields were in striking contrast to the cultivated and unprotected slopes on adjacent fields. The Friends of the Land had excellent publicity on Mr. Cope's half hour Farm Hour radio program over WAGA Atlanta, on May 23, when Mr. Fink reported the activities of the society.

ATHENS, GEORGIA CHAPTER

The **Athens, Georgia Chapter** has had a very excellent year. The last issue of THE LAND carried a brief report of two of the Chapter meetings. The fall meeting included talks during the morning by Dr. W. O. Collins, Judge Blanton Fortson and Dr. J. W. Sergent. At the lunch which followed Dr. T. F. Ambercrombie explained how soil deficiencies affect health. During the afternoon the Southern Piedmont Agricultural Experiment was visited, where the members observed a variety of research projects in soil and water conservation. The use of Kudzu made a most dramatic story.

At the mid-winter meeting Dr. Walter Lowdermilk gave the main address, reviewing agriculture in Palestine and Egypt. Four distinguished Chinese Officials were guests of honor at this meeting.

On May the 22nd the Chapter was visited by Ollie E. Fink, Executive Secretary of the Friends of the Land. During the day he visited the Southern Piedmont Agricultural Experiment Station and some farms where outstanding conservation practices are being developed. Following his address to the chapter the election of officers was held. President W. O. Collins and other officers were re-elected to serve another year.

NATIONAL OFFICE

In the **National Office** the new visible membership files have been completed, together with a reorganization of the membership records in general. Now that this trying and time-consuming task has been completed, the National Office is in a better position to record memberships accurately and mail statements regularly.

No doubt some errors will still be found in the national records. The many discrepancies in the older records have often been a source of embarrassment to the National Office, but it is hoped that the members will call attention to all errors in order that they may be eliminated as rapidly as possible. The National Office is happy to be in a position to offer prompt and efficient service.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Liberty Hyde Bailey, who suggested as early as 1917 the need for a society such as the Friends of the Land, has accepted the invitation to become an honorary member of the Friends of the Land.

Hon. Gifford Pinchot, recognized among all interests as a leader in the conservation movement, also has accepted the invitation of our Executive Committee to become an honorary member of the Friends of the Land.

CHAPTER MEMBERS

E. R. Hodgson of Hodgson's, Inc., First Vice President of the Athens, Georgia, Chapter, is the Chapter representative on our Board of Directors.

Each chapter is entitled to a representative on our Board of Directors. A chapter representative should be appointed if this has not been done.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION, NUTRITION AND HUMAN HEALTH

ALUMNI MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS AND MEETINGS
Ohio University Campus, Athens, Ohio

USUALLY discussions of nutrition limit themselves to a consideration of the selection, purchase and preparation of food, together with a discussion of the digestion and assimilation of the food-stuffs. For three years now these Tar Hollow Conferences have gained increasing national attention because they have been the first to call a group of experts to present nutrition "from the group up." Physicians, health workers, nutritionists, soil experts, foresters, sportsmen, friends of wild life and men interested in the future of our nation, assemble to listen and take part in this conference.

Robust health depends upon good nutrition. Good nutrition depends upon physical exercise, good digestion, and assimilation but primarily upon good food. Nutritious food comes from the proteinacious plants and mineral-rich fruits. These in turn come from fertile soils, rich in all of the appropriate elements. Unfortunately most of our nations soils are no longer rich in available soil minerals. Our faulty agricultural practices have greatly reduced the fertility of our soils through erosion, over-cropping, leaching and our failure to return sufficient organic wastes to the soil.

Soil is the starting point in human health. Much evidence has been accumulated in plant breeding to prove that some varieties of vegetables are more nutritious than others and within the common variety great variations may exist, subject to the quantity of the soil in which they have grown. The growing of crops based upon an analysis of human needs rather than upon local geographic influences and tariff laws may result in certain regional adjustments to agricultural production. The planning for any particular region and the type of farming to be used in relation to modern nutritional science should involve all the known principles of conservation. The primary phase of conservation, then, becomes a matter of saving ourselves through saving our soil.

Ohio University, host to the Fourth Annual Conference on Conservation, Nutrition and Human Health, is the pioneer institution of higher learning in the Northwest Territory.

Down the Ohio River, up the Great Hock-Hocking, and into a territory inhabited by hostile Indians came General Rufus Putnam and his little band of surveyors in 1795 to lay off the "college lands." These lands were provided for in a contract — entered into some months later by the Ohio Company of Associates with the Honorable Board of Treasury of the United States of America — which was authorized by Congress on July 27, 1787, fourteen days after the famous Ordinance of 1787, and fifty-two days before the completion of the Constitution of the United States. The University was ultimately established February 18, 1804, by an act of the Ohio Legislature.

From a two-room, two-story brick building and an opening-day student body of three men, Ohio University has grown until its 26 principal buildings and 32 auxiliary buildings housed a prewar enrollment of 3,500 students who came to the campus from all sections of the United States.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

June 30th

1:30 p. m. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME ..... JOHN C. BAKER, LL.D.
President of the Ohio University

2:00 p. m. SOUTHEASTERN OHIO ADJUSTS HER LAND USE ..... JOHN SITTERLY, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Rural Economics and Sociology, Ohio State University

3:00 p. m. THE CHURCH IN RURAL RECONSTRUCTION ..... REVEREND HENRY RETZEK
St. Alexius Church, West Union, Minnesota

4:00 p. m. PROTECTING A WATERSHED ..... BRYCE BROWNING
Secretary, Muskingum Conservancy District, New Philadelphia, Ohio

RECESS

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION

June 30th

C. L. DOW, Ph.D.
Professor of Geology and Chairman Conservation Committee of the Ohio University, Presiding

7:30 p. m. WASTE YOUR LAND — WASTE YOUR FUTURE ..... CHESTER DAVIS, LL.D.
St. Louis, Missouri, President of Federal Reserve Bank
President of FRIENDS OF THE LAND

8:00 p. m. SOIL EROSION AND CIVILIZATION ..... WALTER C. LOWDERMILK, Ph.D.
Assistant Chief, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D. C.

9:00 p. m. SAVING THIS LAND OF OURS ..... LOUIS BROMFIELD, D. Litt.
Author and Farmer, Lucas, Ohio

Arranged by
OLLIE E. FINK
AND
JONATHAN FORMAN
for
FRIENDS OF THE LAND
in cooperation with
OHIO UNIVERSITY
ATHENS, OHIO

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

July 1st

JONATHAN FORMAN, B.A., M.D., Presiding

9:00 a. m. CHANGING THE FOOD HABITS OF OUR PEOPLE ..... MARTHA KOEHNE, Ph.D.
Nutritionist, State Department of Health, Columbus, Ohio

10:00 a. m. ADEQUACY OF OUR NATIONAL FOOD SUPPLY ..... WILLIAM E. KRAUSS, Ph.D.
Chief of the Dairy Department, Ohio Agriculture Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio; Member of subcommittee on Food Supply, National Research Council

11:00 a. m. SOIL IN RELATION TO HEALTH ..... C. R. ORTON, Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of Agriculture Extension Service, University of West Virginia, Morgantown, West Virginia

RECESS

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

July 1st

OLLIE E. FINK, M.A., Presiding

2:00 p. m. THE POTENTIAL ROLE WHICH NUTRITION CAN PLAY IN THE MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL HEALTH ..... N. PHILLIP NORMAN, M.D and JAMES RORTY.
Dr. Norman is a pioneer clinical nutritionist engaged in active practice and coauthor with Mr. Rorty, the well known writer on sociologic subjects, of a book covering all dimensions of the nutrition problem

3:00 p. m. OHIO UNIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION ..... C. L. DOW, Ph.D
Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the University

3:30 p. m. CURRENT THINKING IN CONSERVATION, NUTRITION AND HEALTH ..... JONATHAN FORMAN, B.A., M.D.
Editor of the Ohio State Medical Journal and Practicing Physician, Columbus, Ohio
This will be an attempt to summarize what has been learned at these conferences

STILL PIONEERING

The oldest university building in the Northwest Territory is Cutler Hall, an ancient shrine built in 1817. It is a landmark to the pioneer and his attention to education. The old pioneer is gone, and those who followed have left their paths of reckless destruction of our God-given natural resources. Many areas of the nation have passed their peak and are on the downgrade. There is a need for a new type of pioneer today. The new pioneer in agriculture and education is needed to restore our agriculture and to husband our precious resources. It is most fitting that this conference which represents pioneering in this vital problem be held in the shadow of the monument to education built by those pioneers who cleared the forests.

The need for continuing these conferences is indicated by a statement by Wellington Brink, Editor of Soil Conservation magazine (May 23, 1945).

"To my mind you are being smart in deciding to carry on again this year. You are still pioneering in the field of soil-nutrition relationships, and, indeed, these annual conferences in Ohio are pretty nearly the only source of popular current material on this subject in which there is a growing and vital interest. I hope the time will come, partly as a direct result of these meetings, when home economics people and medical men and soil conservation leaders generally will recognize this sharp relationship and will make more of it in pushing for the improvement of the quality of productive lands."

The following list of references contains useful information on farm ponds:

From: Superintendent of Documents
Government Printing Office
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

1. Silting of Reservoirs—40 cts.
   Technical Bulletin No. 524
2. Range Watering Places in the Southwest—15 cts.
   Department Bulletin No. 1358
3. Low Dams—$1.25
4. The Control of Reservoir Silting—25 cts.
   Miscellaneous Publication No. 521
5. Stock-Water Developments—Wells, Springs and Ponds—10 cts.
   Farmers' Bulletin No. 1859
6. Reservoirs for Farm Use—5 cts.
   Farmers' Bulletin No. 1703
7. Ponds for Wildlife—10 cts.
   Farmers' Bulletin No. 1879
8. Headwaters—Control and Use—60 cts.
   Upstream Engineering Conference 1936

From: Soil Conservation Service, Resettlement Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D. C.
Little Waters—Their Use and Relations to the Land—15 cts.

From: Soil Conservation Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.
Conserving Water in Farm Ponds in the Ohio Valley Region

From: Ohio Division of Conservation and Natural Resources
State Office Building, Columbus 15, Ohio
Cooperative Farm Pond Development

From: State Engineer Department, Bismark, North Dakota
Spillway Hydraulics for Small Dams in North Dakota

From: Extension Service, North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo, N. D.
Construction of Small Dams for Farm and Community Use.
Circular 154.

From: Agricultural Experiment Station, Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana
Small Reservoirs for Stock Water and Irrigation
Bulletin P17

From: Natural History Survey Division, Urbana, Illinois
Management of Small Artificial Lakes
Volume 22 — Bulletin — Article 3

From: Agricultural Extension Division, University of Kentucky, Lexington
Earth Dams for Farm Reservoirs
Circular No. 317

From: Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blackburg, Virginia
Farm Fish Ponds

From: Portland Cement Association, 33 West Grand Avenue, Chicago 10
Concrete Soil-Saving Structures — Check Dams and Flumes
Ponds for Livestock Watering

SECRETARY'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE

January 5—Youngstown, Ohio, Kiwanis Club

January 9—New York City, Annual Meeting of the New York Zoological Society

January 11—Havana, Illinois, Mason County Farm Bureau

January 12—Henry, Illinois, Soil Conservation District Meeting

January 16—Crossville, Tennessee, Conservation Association also High School Athletic Association

January 29—Wilmington, Ohio, Rotary Club Farmers' Day

January 31—Columbus, Ohio, Ohio Forestry Association (not on program)

February 2—Loudonville, Ohio, Garden Club and Civic Meeting

February 15—Oregon, Illinois, Ogle County Soil Conservation District

February 16—Dixon, Illinois, Lee County Teachers Association

February 16—Amboy, Illinois, Lee County Soil Conservation District

February 19—Cleveland, Ohio, Town and Country Garden Club

February 20—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Chapter (not on program) Conferring with national officers and Philadelphia leaders

February 21—Baltimore Md., visited Waverly Press—where The Land is printed.

February 26—Deshler, Ohio, Commercial Club Farmers' Night

March 1—Varna, Illinois, Future Farmers

March 2—Decatur, Illinois, Macon County Teachers' Association

March 5, 6, 7—Madison, Wisconsin, U. S. Forest Products, Laboratory (Conferences with research specialists)

March 7—Elgin, Illinois, Izaak Walton meeting

March 8—St. Charles, Illinois, Rotary Club

March 15—Cleveland, Ohio, Downtown Kiwanis Club

March 21—Akron, Ohio, Coon Hollow Bird Club

March 22—Akron, Ohio Garden Club

April 4—Akron, Federated Garden Clubs

"There are thousands of men in the cities who are boys from the country who have made good and are now trying to get enough money to live in the country." Everyone of these will join FRIENDS OF THE LAND with nostalgic eagerness if only they are asked. Please make it your business to extend an invitation to as many of these as you can. We must double our membership and it will be easy if each of us get one new member.

April 12—Cincinnati, Junior Chamber of Commerce Forum Plans).

April 13—Macomb, Illinois, Superintendents', Principals' and Teachers' Annual Conference, Western Illinois State Teachers College

April 14—Macomb-Rural Progress Day

April 19—Logan, Ohio—Camp Hocking, Izaak Walton League

April 24—Indianapolis, Indiana, Junior Chamber of Commerce. (Forum plans)

April 25—Indianapolis

April 27—Athens, Ohio. Nutrition Conference and Board meeting plans

May 1—Gates Mills, Ohio, Garden Club

May 4—Cleveland, Farmers Club (Not on Program)

May 11—Indianapolis, Forum Promotion

May 15—Athens, Ohio. Nutrition Conference promotion

May 17—Cincinnati, Ohio. Forum promotion

May 21—Atlanta, Ga. Atlanta Chapter Committee

May 22—Athens, Ga. Chapter meeting (Visited SCS Experiment Station)

FORTHCOMING FORUMS

In *Indianapolis* Wednesday, June 20th, and in Cincinnati Thursday, June 21st, will be held a CONSERVATION FORUM with a program arranged by FRIENDS OF THE LAND. Some years ago our secretary, Mr. Fink, served as chairman of the conservation committee of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce. It was through this connection that the sponsorship of the two Forums was undertaken by the local Junior Chamber of Commerce in each of these cities.

The local Junior Chamber of Commerce in Indianapolis has augmented the special Forum promotion committee by the addition of a representative from each of the several conservation and civic groups. In Cincinnati the procedure has been much the same except that the administrative officers are heading up the promotion. The speakers will be the same except Ralph Kriebel of Purdue University speaks at Indianapolis on "The Biology of Land Use," while in Cincinnati, Lt. Col. Frederick A. Muhlenberg, U.S.A. Engineers, will speak on "Flood Control in the Ohio Valley." The rest of the afternoon program will be taken by Dr. W. A. Albrecht and Dr. Jonathan Forman. In the evening at both Forums Louis Bromfield and E. J. Condon will be the speakers. In Cincinnati arrangements are being made for a luncheon at which the plans call for the attendance of the members of the various luncheon service clubs of the city. In addition Mr. Bromfield and Mr. Condon will be interviewed over WLW at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

EDITOR LORD IN ENGLAND

Russell Lord, the editor of our popular quarterly has been in England for the Office of War Information, making survey of what British agriculture is doing towards feeding the nation.

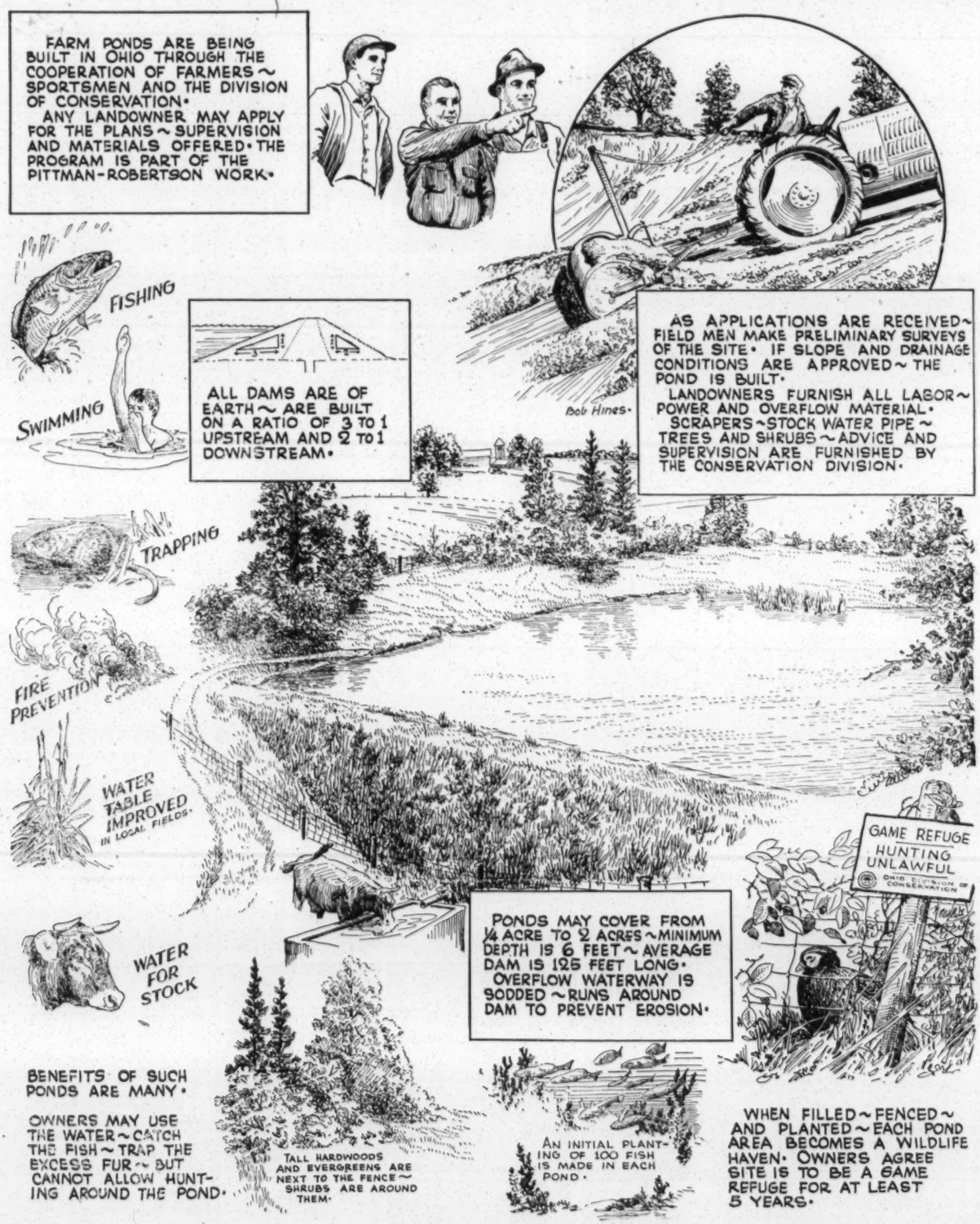
On April 30th Editor Lord addressed the Royal Geographical Society under the title, "A Land Made Over—Some Observations On Progress in the Conservation of Natural Resources in the United States." He did great honor to our Society in this story of the movement toward an improved groundline husbandry in our own country for the information of British authorities. Upon his return, he will no doubt report to the members of *FRIENDS OF THE LAND* on his observations in forthcoming issues of THE LAND. In fact, we have just learned that there is a good possibility that he will be with the Directors at Athens at the end of this month. In this event, he will be given an appropriate place on the program.

FOR MORE COMPLETE BIBLIOGRAPHY CONSULT EITHER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

Fish For Food. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1938 USDA.—10 cts.
U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Cooperative Farm Pond Development
Ohio Division of Conservation and Natural Resources
State Office Building, Columbus, Ohio

FARM PONDS


FARM PONDS ARE BEING BUILT IN OHIO THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF FARMERS ~ SPORTSMEN AND THE DIVISION OF CONSERVATION.
ANY LANDOWNER MAY APPLY FOR THE PLANS ~ SUPERVISION AND MATERIALS OFFERED. THE PROGRAM IS PART OF THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WORK.
FISHING
SWIMMING
ALL DAMS ARE OF EARTH ~ ARE BUILT ON A RATIO OF 3 TO 1 UPSTREAM AND 2 TO 1 DOWNSTREAM.
AS APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED ~ FIELD MEN MAKE PRELIMINARY SURVEYS OF THE SITE. IF SLOPE AND DRAINAGE CONDITIONS ARE APPROVED ~ THE POND IS BUILT.
LANDOWNERS FURNISH ALL LABOR ~ POWER AND OVERFLOW MATERIAL.
SCRAPERS ~ STOCK WATER PIPE ~ TREES AND SHRUBS ~ ADVICE AND SUPERVISION ARE FURNISHED BY THE CONSERVATION DIVISION.
Bob Hines.
TRAPPING
FIRE PREVENTION
WATER TABLE IMPROVED IN LOCAL FIELDS.
WATER FOR STOCK
PONDS MAY COVER FROM ¼ ACRE TO 2 ACRES ~ MINIMUM DEPTH IS 6 FEET ~ AVERAGE DAM IS 125 FEET LONG.
OVERFLOW WATERWAY IS SODDED ~ RUNS AROUND DAM TO PREVENT EROSION.
GAME REFUGE
HUNTING UNLAWFUL
OHIO DIVISION OF CONSERVATION
BENEFITS OF SUCH PONDS ARE MANY.
OWNERS MAY USE THE WATER ~ CATCH THE FISH ~ TRAP THE EXCESS FUR ~ BUT CANNOT ALLOW HUNTING AROUND THE POND.
TALL HARDWOODS AND EVERGREENS ARE NEXT TO THE FENCE ~ SHRUBS ARE AROUND THEM.
AN INITIAL PLANTING OF 100 FISH IS MADE IN EACH POND.
WHEN FILLED ~ FENCED ~ AND PLANTED ~ EACH POND AREA BECOMES A WILDLIFE HAVEN. OWNERS AGREE SITE IS TO BE A GAME REFUGE FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS.

From Ohio Conservation Bulletin—February, 1945 Issue

Drawing By ROBERT HINES

UNDER THE SURFACE IN WASHINGTON

PORTER HEDGE, editor
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New secretary can't produce miracles . . .

If you're expecting miracles from the man who takes over the Department of Agriculture today you're due for a big letdown.

Clinton P. Anderson is no miracle man, and, fortunately for the farmers of the country, he knows it.

Anderson already is in the "nine hole"—put there by friends and well wishers who had led the country to think that food shortages will shortly disappear by the wave of some magic wand.

The new Secretary realizes he has a lot of climbing to do before he can get out of the hole well meaning friends have put him in.

Anderson also has to overcome a feeling which appears to have become general that during his regime farmers can expect a general rise in prices.

There is nothing in Anderson's attitude or in the Congressional delegation of power to him to indicate that agriculture can expect more than the "creeping inflation"—a slow, gradual rise in prices until supplies catch up with demand—that already has set in.

What farmers can expect from Anderson is a reasonably fair break on price. The new Secretary believes in the pull of price as an incentive to production.

However, he is not an inflationist; he will not have supreme authority over food; he is compelled by national policy to continue to lean on subsidies, at least until end of Jap war.

Anderson will be guided on price matters by three things: Whether greater production of a commodity is needed; whether price is the controlling factor in getting the increase; whether the existing price in relation to costs and other commodities is too low to pull the production needed.

A farmer betting hard-earned war bond savings on the gamble of a general price rise runs the risk of losing his shirt. That's the way it looks from here on the day the new man takes over.

Signing a piece of paper doesn't insure the peace . . .

Thousands of young Americans from farm and city crossed the continent, east to west, last week, headed toward a fight to end the Jap war.

Some of them may have met a plane, flying west to east, carrying from San Francisco the President of the United States and the Charter of the nations united against all war. The United Nations charter is now before the 96 United States Senators, who doubtless will approve it.

The Charter sets up a Security Council. This is a kind of policeman to stop any international brawl that threatens to become war. There is to be a World Court to give opinions on how quarrels should be settled, or at least decently conducted.

Most important of all for permanent peace, there is an Economic and Social Council, through which the nations can work to remove the causes of the brawls which become wars.

One of the Council's jobs, by establishing fair play in world trade, is to overcome the hate which grows when one nation has vital raw materials and won't let another get them.

This in turn helps with another Council job—to open opportunities for maximum production and employment. Men with well-paid jobs easily believe in and practice democracy. Jobless men first envy, then hate, men with jobs. They easily follow dictators who set up fascist governments, preach hate, discriminate against and enslave the weak, and glorify war.

"If, buts" dangerous . . .

A little more and this might have happened to us in 1932. We pulled out of the depression and kept our democracy. Some of the rest of the world didn't, and we then had to fight for our democracy.

The point is, the United Nations Charter applies to us, including its obligation to do something about the purposes of the Economic and Social Council chapter of the Charter.

When the League of Nations was put before the 96 Senators 25 years ago, a small group of them had "reservations." The League died.

"Reservations" now — fingers crossed, refusal to cooperate in the economic and social purposes of the Charter at home or abroad—would wreck the chances for a lasting world peace. What's the present score on measures necessary to put the economic and social peace into effect?

Pretty slow going . . .

Key provision of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act—tariff cutting authority—squeaked through by a few votes. The Bretton Woods monetary agreement is under attack by a few large banker groups hoping to weaken it by compromise, though it will probably squeeze through Congress.

The full employment bill, endorsed by the White House, is not even being considered at this time, in spite of earnest efforts of a Congressional minority and much public support.

Neither is President Truman's request for adequate unemployment benefits during the reconversion period.

Price control wreckers came within an ace of cutting inflation loose with the most critical period coming up—most of World War I inflation came after the fighting.

The President's request for authority to reshape the Government, twisted out of shape by war strains and war agencies, is getting nowhere.

The chances for getting a monopoly-breaking, production-boosting plan for disposing of war plants look poor.

The Senate is set to talk to death the measure which would repeal the disenfranchising poll tax in the last seven states that require it. Two urgent requests from the President leave it still doubtful whether the Fair Employment Practices Committee will get funds for war-time operation, let alone continuing authority in the troublesome post-war adjustment.

There is little question that the Senate will approve the United Nations Charter. But it becomes pertinent to ask: Will we become a member of the nations united against future wars—and leave running loose at home the causes of war?

(Continued on page 4)

Capital Farm Trends . . .

POSTWAR: Are we headed hellbent for another depression? We've talked this over with topflight economists here--in and out of Government. They differ on details. But on main points thinking runs down pretty well defined grooves:

1. The Nation is unprepared for peace. End of war this summer would pitch the country into serious economic trouble.

2. Heading off another depression depends on what is done in Congress, in industry, on farms to provide jobs, wages and markets--and done soon enough before war ends to shift the economy over without serious jolts.

3. The more optimistic look for a short but sharp depression, followed by a boom, the intensity depending on how soon war ends.

4. If war lasts 18 months, industry will have converted sufficiently to produce for most civilian requirements. Remaining war production would be surplus, suddenly cut off, bring on a period of unemployment and depression.

Some farm economists are slightly more optimistic. They think reconversion will move along more evenly; unemployment won't be serious (above 6 to 8 million) until a year after war ends; no major depression before 1950--and not necessarily then if counter measures are taken in time.

Most figure that agriculture will be hit less hard by war's end than rest of the economy; that postwar price supports, low farm indebtedness, & large savings will cushion the jolt for farmers as a group, though not necessarily individuals.

This points to 1947 as the first probable critical year for agriculture; indicates you can safely plan expanded operations for at least another year. Production of most food items won't be able to catch up with demand before fall of 1946. If war is over then, postwar guarantees will have to be called in to reinforce farm prices on some crops produced for 1947.

CATTLE: A reshaping of the whole cattle price-subsidy structure is in prospect. We don't flatly predict it. But the problem is being discussed. It's one of the big livestock questions Secretary Anderson will have to answer.

A wider margin for feeders is most pressing problem. Steam is also building up to give cattle some kind of a price support after war ends. Cattlemen were unsuccessful in getting postwar price protection written into OPA Act.

Beyond House Food Committee hearings, Anderson hasn't gone deeply into the problem. He wants to go over it thoroughly with USDA officials before committing himself to final action.

Anderson is committed by national policy to lean heavily on subsidies. His tendency is to increase producer incentives. It's possible this might take the form of shifting more, or all, of Government subsidy funds direct to producers.

Though little known, such a shift of funds has been discussed in high circles. On AA beef, for instance, processors now get $3 a hundred in rollback subsidy; producers 50¢ in direct subsidy. The proposal is to lower live cattle ceilings by the amount of the subsidy, make up the difference by paying the full subsidy ($3.50 a hundred on AA beef) direct to producers through local AAA committees.

Same general scheme could also be used on hogs and dairy products.

Its main talking points are to wipe out black market, provide a method of easing prices back by gradual withdrawal of subsidy after the war.

This is now only in the proposal stage. Mechanics of overhauling cattle price structure finally agreed on may be different. This should be regarded only as a straw in the wind indicating direction.

HOGS: Watch for fairly early action to increase price support on hogs. June pig crop report, indicating only a slight 1945 gain over last year and 7.6 million below '45 goal, was a jolt to food officials, will speed up action.

WHEAT: Here's the current wheat outlook gauged by planning for 1946 acreage goals: You can bank on at least one more big wheat year. No serious surplus trouble is indicated before fall of 1947. By then it's well to figure on trimming acreage.

War Food is fixing its sights on a 1946 production of about 900 million bushels on approximately 68 million acres--about the same as this year.

There's no real concern over finding a place to put current stocks plus the record billion bushel crop now being harvested. Bulk of relief food we're sending to Europe is wheat. More than expected may be needed for feed. Home demand plus military & relief requirements will whittle down carryover by next July to not more than 350 million bushels.

Wheat requirements from 1946 crop are figured at around 900 million bushels. This allows for a sizeable cut in military, relief, industrial and possibly feed uses.

It points to a carryover of around 350 million bushels two years from now, July, 1947--not large in terms of prewar. Barring serious crop losses, or unforeseeable demand in China, it adds up to acreage cuts by fall of 1947. Sudden foldup of Jap war, or quicker recovery of European production than anyone now expects, might force some trimming of wheat sails earlier.

BOXCARS: You're heading into one of the worst summer transportation jams in history starting about middle of this month. Exceptionally heavy westward military movement coming at harvest peak will crowd all non-essential traffic off the rails.

New wheat crop and old corn movement will get caught in the jam. Soybean producers will need more than usual storage space, for traffic tieup will carry over into fall and winter.

FARM MACHINERY: This will give you an idea of what to expect on 1945-'46 farm machinery production for specific implements. The figures represent current inside calculations on prospective new production against last year (in parenthesis):

Tractors, 240,000 (155,000); pickup balers, 25,000 (9,349); side delivery rakes 60,000 (43,618); tractor-mounted mowers, 100,000 (53,649); corn pickers, 46,000 (32,861); corn & cotton planters, 50,000 (36,423); tractor-mounted middlebusters, 42,000 (21,345).

POULTRY: Anderson's House Food Investigating Committee report hints strongly that USDA will boost egg prices this summer by advancing the date of higher fall ceilings already announced; also increase egg price support for next spring.

DAIRY: One of the early Anderson moves is likely to be a slight increase in butter price ceiling. He's in sympathy with claim butter price is out of line.

A billion dollar postwar market for farm products . . .

There's a billion dollar postwar farm market to be found in the apparently simple method of making available to 12 million industrial workers a complete mid-shift meal once a day.

This is the estimate of War Food Administration's industrial feeding branch, which has been conducting studies of on-the-job industrial feeding and sounding out its postwar implications for farmers.

WFA officials have now developed a plan to accomplish this, and will try to sell it to Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, who is known to be in sympathy with any practical idea to expand farm markets after the war. The plan, briefly, is this:

Large industrial plants and other concerns with facilities to feed workers would be encouraged to prepare and serve mid-shift meals, planned around "surplus" or seasonal foods. The Government would lend a hand in planning menus and providing other services. Workers would be issued food coupons, having a value of approximately five cents each, as an incentive to eat in the plant's cafeteria instead of carrying a lunch box or going out to the nearest hamburger stand.

At full participation of 12 million workers which WFA officials think is a conservative estimate of the postwar potential, this plan would cost the taxpayers around $150,000,000 a year.

The plan would be voluntary, started on a modest scale in highly industrialized areas, and pumped up to the 12 million worker scale as industry cooperation warranted.

A study of industrial plant feeding last year indicated that seven million workers were getting one mid-shift meal a day at "in-plant" feeding establishments.

Boosting that figure to 12 million would create an estimated billion dollar wholesale food market after the war. It is further calculated that 12 million workers getting their meals this way would eat three and a half million tons of food a year, or three billion pounds more than they normally would eat out of lunch pails.

Most of the increased food consumption over lunch boxes would come in vegetables and dairy products, with sizeable boosts also in meats and eggs.

The plan has two objects: To improve the eating habits, health and efficiency of industrial workers; to expand the home market for farm products.

It is based on the idea that the best eaters aren't the sick, the aged or the unemployed, but the regular workers who need and want three squares a day. It's an outgrowth of the philosophy of expanding home food markets advanced by Milo Perkins, originator of the food stamp plan.

Postwar farm market implications of the scheme are indicated by comparative studies made at the Chrysler Dodge plant in Chicago and the USDA cafeteria in Washington.

They showed that the white collar worker ate about the same number of pounds of food as industrial workers. Packaging and methods of serving were shown to be important, if increasing consumption of a product is a goal.

About the same proportion of workers took milk at both the Chrysler plant and USDA cafeteria. But at Chrysler milk was served in pint bottles instead of half pint containers. Result: The percentage of milk to the total amount of food consumed by Chrysler workers was 15 percent greater than USDA workers.

The industrial feeding branch has funds to carry on further food consumption studies for another three months. Then it will be up to Anderson to continue, or to cut off, the work. How far the new Secretary will go in developing the plan isn't yet known. Aides to Anderson think he'll want to encourage expansion of industrial plant feeding, but might shy at the idea of partially subsidizing the increased consumption through a stamp plan.

FSA sandbagging is seen in credit bill . . .

At little-publicized hearings, Chairman Flannagan (D-Va.) of the House Agriculture Committee, is rolling up a record for his bill to consolidate Federal farm lending (except Commodity Credit Corp.) in an independent Agricultural Credit Agency.

Friends of Farm Security Adm. have some reason to fear that one aim of the measure is to sandbag Farm Security. This is denied by Flannagan and others interested in the bill. But in discussing it, Flannagan is reported to have said he intended to "get rid of the Tugwell influence." Tugwell once headed Rural Rehabilitation, forerunner of FSA.

The Flannagan bill puts farm credit under a board of 7 long-term Presidential appointees, at $12,500 each, an administrator at $12,000, and deputies in charge of various credit branches — mortgage loans, production loans, co-op loans, direct and emergency loans.

There is no clear declaration of policy for supervised rehabilitation loans which are the basis of FSA's help to little farmers. FSA's friends fear that "hard credit" would dominate the board, and would prefer leaving FSA functions in an agency for that special purpose. They want at least a firm statutory base under FSA and its rehabilitation program.

Proponents of the Flannagan bill explain that it deals only with organization —policy would be dealt with later. FSA's friends say they fear the little farmer would be dealt out by that time.

Farm Bureau, Grange and Co-op Council have favored the bill. Farmers' Union has praised orderly reorganization, but asked for a strong rehabilitation program specifically provided for.

Lee Wiggins, for the American Bankers' Association, testified for the bill's consolidation at the top features. But the bankers don't like the idea of one farm credit office in the county—it might get "sound credit" mixed up with "soft credit." Business of the latter, as bankers see it, is to build up busted farmers into sound credit risks for bankers.

The real REA issue is to electrify more farms . . .

The important REA issue is to get electricity into all possible farm homes, cheaply and quickly. If REA can meet that issue, it wont' matter whether it's independent or under the Department of Agriculture, or who is administrator.

With former Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard taking over as REA administrator, there's a new chance to drop side-issues; the less time spent looking back into REA dissensions the better.

This is the record of the last 10 years —including years of war scarcity in materials: Farms electrified 10 years ago, 10.3 percent; electrified now, 42.2 percent, of which half are directly due to REA, which had connected 1,263,761 customers up to June 30, 1944.

Wickard thinks there's a good deal to rural electrification beyond lighting up the farmhouse parlor and kitchen. Experience is showing that new lines serving new customers are scarcely more important than the increased use made of power by customers already connected.

There are jobs which power can do to make farms more productive and profitable, less laborious and inconvenient, which are yet to be found. Electricity will go beyond lighting, pumping, grinding and freezing. There are jobs of heating, drying, and sterilizing possible, to name but a few.

Another advancement to which Wickard looks forward is development of specially designed generator units for small, isolated communities. There are also agriculturally-based industries to be served which will be of benefit to farmers.

Going into its second decade (REA recently celebrated its 10th birthday) REA promises also to be one of the city job creating agencies. Nearly 70 percent of farm families which were surveyed recently planned to buy one or more electrical appliances, spending an average of $271 each, as soon as possible after the war.

spade

UNDER THE SURFACE IN WASHINGTON

PORTER HEDGE, editor
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Turning point in national farm program . . .

With new faces at the top of the farm show in Washington, everyone is speculating about heads to fall, and where do we go from here?

It is not a case of a Pharaoh come to power who "knows not Joseph," for both Secretary of Agriculture Clint Anderson and Undersecretary Jack Hutson are sympathetic to the Wallace philosophy which has shaped agricultural policy pretty much since 1933.

But this is the beginning of the turning point in the national farm administration, the first real one since cotton was plowed up and the little pigs killed. The philosophy of aid to farmers in establishing a balanced abundance for all will continue. The situations to be met have changed, and the methods must change, too.

Public aid to industry through tariffs and other subsidies had become public policy years earlier. Under Roosevelt and Wallace, the principle of public aid to agriculture was established.

The regime of ex-Secretary Claude Wickard was simply an extension of that of the '30s. The whole agricultural war effort owes its success to the foundation of the Wallace-Wickard program, plus hard work by farmers.

Which way now?

The Marvin Jones administration of War Food Adm. coasted and drifted. Powerful political and economic interests were placated to avoid trouble—sometimes at high cost. Inheriting a dual-headed organization (WFA within but independent of USDA), Jones tried to make the best of a bad situation, but ended with confusion worse confounded.

The question now is not what heads fall, or what organizational changes are coming. One streamlined organization will begin to emerge. The real question is the course upon which Anderson and Hutson will put the new organization.

The course is set for the duration of the war. It steers toward high production goals, with price supports and subsidies for the oars, and a good many inflation cross-currents to overcome.

The farmers' war production contract idea of Farmers Union President Jim Patton might have gotten still bigger production. Wickard's incentive payment idea might have boosted production in the most needed lines at minimum cost. At this date, there's small likelihood of fundamental change.

Revolution in agriculture . . .

Looking beyond the end of the Pacific war, however, farmers see a time of great uncertainty. What the new Department of Agriculture does about it will not wholly determine the answer, but will have a profound influence.

As head of President Truman's farm administration, Clint Anderson has to decide whether merely to reshuffle and streamline the old, or fashion a farm policy and program for the future.

The main fact which must be seen is that agriculture is in the midst of a technological revolution. That means also an economic revolution. Technology is increasing production, cutting costs and reducing labor. The economic size of farm is coming to be the capacity of a tractor, or a combine, or a corn picker, rather than what one man and his family can handle. On the best land, the farms are getting bigger.

Anderson must face the fact that last year 25 per cent of farmers received close to 75 per cent of the gross farm income. The top quarter (1,369,000 farms) grossed $6,000 or over apiece, in 1944. The remaining 4,000,000-plus grossed an average of about $1,400.

It's no longer realistic to talk or think of 6,000,000 farms all having the same problems of price, weather and taxes that can be cured by one program. Of the probably 5,500,000 farms, about 1,500,000 are doing very well, and most of the other 4,000,000 struggling along—on poor land, not enough land, without machinery or power.

A price support program may be all that those in the top quarter want or need. It won't meet the problem of the low three-quarters. Agriculture has a full-scale unemployment problem coming up, especially in the South.

The two extremes . . .

Someone must decide whether to let technological forces work themselves out without Government intervention except to alleviate human suffering, or whether to direct these forces toward human betterment.

The extremes may be: (1) Big factory-farms with the work done by machines and hired men, and (2) a large and mostly miserable class of subsistence farmers on the other. In between will be a group of capable middle-sized family farmers on good land, using machinery adapted to their operations. The big question will be how many can be put into the middle group and kept there—and how to do it.

If the U. S. is to do anything about it, Anderson and his men will have to be the General Staff that formulates and directs one of the greatest peace-time campaigns in history.

Employment and wages . . .

This farm campaign can't be carried on without regard to the rest of the economy. It must fit into some kind of general pattern. With full employment and high wages, the farm moves will be easier. If there is deep depression, any farm program is so much junk.

Washington, except for some ostrich minds, is getting uneasy about this job & pay business. That thing just around the corner may not be prosperity, but unem-

(Continued on page 4)

Washington expects—

Bolder farm price actions under Secretary Anderson, page 2.
Milo Perkins' food distribution ideas to show up in Anderson's farm policies, page 4.
Increase in hog price support, page 2.
Centralized farm program administration to be tried in some counties, page 4.
Boost in poultry ceiling on heavy roasters, page 2.
End of farm machinery shortage by spring, page 3.
Complete overhauling of CCC, page 4.

Capital Farm Trends . . .

FARM PRICE POLICY: Somewhat greater stress on price and price supports to get production of commodities most needed, less quibbling about the dollar—this is general policy you can expect from the new Secretary of Agriculture Anderson.

He'll usher in a period of bolder price actions, pitched further ahead. Moreover, Anderson will have the authority to make his price promises stick—something farmers have been leary of in the past.

Anderson champions the idea that if you want production you've got to pay for it, just as you pay for munitions of war—even at the risk of piling up some post-war "surpluses" that might have to be worked off later.

This is all-important to producers of so-called "war crops," such as livestock, soybeans, flax, sugar beets, etc. Indicates you can plan for the future with greater assurance price pledges will be made good. Anderson won't be as quick to give in to pressures seeking to scuttle price supports as in the past.

POSTWAR: It's worth your noting that the new Secretary is strong on full production and wide distribution of farm products—beyond the period of current food shortages. It has important postwar farm policy implications.

Anderson won't be afraid of accumulating some "surpluses." He'll attempt to distribute them, rather than to curtail production beyond soil conservation measures essential to long-time land use.

This policy will place continued reliance on price supports and subsidies—at least for next two years, possibly longer. How long before "surpluses" might begin to accumulate? This is how responsible officials here size it up:

Home-front shortages plus hungry Europeans will keep prices of major farm commodities crowding ceilings throughout 1945. Granting a near normal European harvest next year, European food demand will drop sharply about the time 1946 crops are coming to market in this country.

Some time beyond next 15 months, assuming normal weather this year and next, food supplies again will start to pile up.

End of abnormal European food demand—even a sharp cut in military requirements if Jap war is over—will have less influence on farm prices than the home market, which depends on jobs, wages, accumulated savings, whether we have inflation or deflation.

Thus, current labor fears of postwar unemployment, Congressional debate over full employment measures, whether industry cuts back sharply or steams ahead on production after war demands are filled, whether effective price controls are continued or scuttled—all have a direct dollar bearing on postwar farming.

HOGS: Boost in hog price support, probably to $13.50, Chicago basis, now appears definitely in the picture, as we indicated June 1. This is tempered, of course, by feed production outlook, good so far.

But we do know that Anderson thinks the "low" hog price support policy in the past was unwise—it led to current meat shortage. He has told friends one of his first price actions on taking office will be to raise hog price support.

POULTRY: Another expression of Anderson's emphasis on price to spur production is his ideas on poultry. He thinks boosting poultry meat production is the shortest route to a quick increase in meat supplies.

An increase in price ceiling on roasters (not broilers) is thus indicated. War Food Adm. figures this could hike poultry meat production by some 300 million pounds this year. Anderson practically gave the go-ahead signal for a price boost at a recent House food committee hearing. Keep close watch on this. You may want to adjust marketing plans.

CATTLE: Lots of talk here about putting some kind of a postwar price floor under beef cattle. Livestock producer associations are concerned. With high concentration of cattle on ranges, they fear any kind of postwar price slump would leave ranchers holding the bag.

Cattle associations want Price Control Act amended to keep price ceilings up during the war, put a partial floor under cattle when war ends.

Their proposed amendment would increase ceiling prices by any amount beef subsidy is lowered; also require that Government purchases of beef after war ends be made at prices not lower than January, 1942 levels.

Officials in a position to know doubt that Government will continue to buy beef on any large scale after the war. But the plan has been taken up with top officials, including the new Secretary of Agriculture.

Anderson hasn't any fixed ideas on this point—yet. Route he eventually will take is, of course, uncertain. But a good many of his lieutenants are not at all antagonistic toward bringing beef cattle under some kind of postwar price roof.

Most officials would want strings attached; would ask cattlemen to work down cattle inventories by a specified amount within a specified period as the price for postwar cattle support program.

LAMB SUBSIDY: OPA's livestock & meat industry advisory committee is proposing a subsidy on market lambs—5¢ to the packer, $2 to the producer. OPA has it under study. Its chances are doubtful.

ANIMAL PROTEIN FEEDS: If you need tankage and can get it, it's a good time to buy. A squeeze on animal protein feeds is developing. Supplies will tighten up for next three to four months.

Causes are reduced livestock slaughter plus sharp spurt in chick production this spring. War Food is trying to import more animal proteins from Argentina.

FARM MACHINERY: End of farm machinery shortage by spring is now in sight. This is real meaning of WPB's recent order taking quota limitations off farm machinery makers. It will permit them—if they choose to produce—to turn out all the equipment they have labor and plant capacity for. Steel is no longer a problem.

War Food and WPB are about ready to come out with a program to give returning veterans first chance to buy new farm machinery. Vets will obtain purchase certificates from county AAA committees.

These certificates will have priority ahead of all other buyers, cut across all previous contracts or agreements. If you've paid cash in advance on a new machine, you'll have to take second chance if a vet gets there first.

ployment. And some of industry may not be too worried. A recent survey by WPB of 72 major industries reveals that they can break even by producing at half capacity. Does this indicate that prices are now keyed for a low production program, with an attempted return to the old low-production, high-priced policy?

Anderson and Hutson must take this into account on their farm price policy. Will they follow the Congressional high-price men—regulate production to keep prices high under the rule which has been followed in many businesses and was followed by AAA in the '30s?

Accent on distribution . . .

Anderson is a friend of AAA, but recently told a visitor: "You can't produce too much if you'll find a way to distribute it to people who need it." He was deeply impressed in 1940 by a pamphlet written by his former Washington neighbor, Milo Perkins, the food stamp plan man.

Perkins called it "The Challenge of Underconsumption," and wrote it around the idea that for the first time the world can produce enough to give everyone a decent diet, if the food is distributed.

To follow this line, Anderson must depend on full employment at high wages, plus food stamp, school lunch and possibly other subsidized programs. And even then, Anderson—eventually—will find "surpluses" appearing at guaranteed wartime support price levels.

Farmers need labor votes . . .

In that case, will the public insist on letting farm prices drop? Will they then be willing to make up the difference in farm income with subsidies? Will they be willing to see food "given away"?

So far, labor Congressmen have backed agriculture in its high price programs, while farmers have been notoriously hostile to labor and labor's programs. Anderson has to plan farm price policies for a time when the Farm Bloc may be blocked by a Labor Bloc.

In the social field—Big Farms vs. Family Farm—Anderson inherits the battered but unvanquished Farm Security Adm. program. Will he revive and strengthen that course of action, or let the law of the jungle work on the little fellow?

The clue to his action here may be the impression his relief work of the '30s left on him. As relief director for New Mexico and later for southwestern states, he saw the plight of the little people. In Congress, most of his requests to AAA have been for payments to Spanish-Americans in his state.

Administration reforms . . .

Administration of farm programs is another question to be confronted. AAA has been run by locally-elected farmer committeemen in the counties and communities of most states. FSA has been administered by a local supervisor with an advisory committee. Soil Conservation Service works through districts, run by mixed boards of elected farmers and local officials. Local Farm Credit Adm. organization is at least semi-cooperative. The Extension Service has broken out of its educational pasture to dominate some administrative fields.

Nearly everyone would like to see one agricultural office in a county where a farmer could get all his official business done. The real controversy is not over which agency might run it, but over whether local farmers manage the Federal administrator, or the administrator manages the farmers—are the farmers directors or advisers? Many farmers remember that Alex Legge, chairman of the old Farm Board, once said that "a gelding is a horse that follows the herd in an advisory capacity."

A confidential memo proposing that some different county single-administration plans be tried out was circulated among agricultural officials here this spring. It came from Hutson's office. He has highly praised the AAA local farmer-committee system.

It's a tough job ahead for the top men in agriculture. The country is divided, not between conservatives and liberals, but between those who understand that technology is forcing changes faster than most minds can keep up, and those who blindly want to live in the dead and past world of the '30s.

As for heads coming off in the new Department of Agriculture—that isn't nearly so important as how Clint and Jack use their own heads.

Full employment program still nowhere in sight . . .

Only progress so far toward a full employment program to pick up where the war may leave off is that some of the preliminary talking about it is over with.

President Truman, concerned about joblessness even before the Pacific war is over, has asked Congress to supplement state unemployment benefits, so war workers can count on $25 a week for 26 weeks if they can't find jobs in that time. He said this was not only fair, but would help prevent a deflation spiral.

The Murray-Wagner full employment bill, due to come up for Congressional study soon, is likely to provide the biggest fight Washington has seen since early Roosevelt days.

National job budget . . .

Idea of this bill is for a national budget to be prepared, showing prospective private investment, number of jobs probably resulting, and number of jobs needed for full employment. If private investment seems insufficient, Congress would be asked to act to stimulate job-making.

To stimulate thought and action, labor has developed a full-employment plan through the National Planning Association, composed of farm, labor and business leaders.

Backbone of this is a proposed $5 billion a year public investment in better housing, health, education, conservation, development of natural resources and social security. If this isn't enough to keep the economy going full blast, tax refunds would be granted, chiefly to low income groups, to increase buying power. This might cost $1.4 billion a year. And if private investment fell below $25 billion a year, meaning unemployment, a big public works program would be ready to operate.

CCC due for complete overhaul by Anderson . . .

Commodity Credit Corp., the agricultural banking agency which finances crop loans and price supports to farmers, is due for a complete overhauling when Secretary Anderson takes over July 1. Frank Hancock, president of CCC and head of Farm Security Administration, is reported planning to resign.

Now broken into two separate divisions —Office of Basic Commodities and Office of Supply—CCC will be reorganized along commodity branch lines.

CCC will emerge as the biggest frog in Secretary Anderson's administrative pond, and Undersecretary Hutson himself is a likely prospect to resume its management, his old job.

Hutson's influence on national farm policy will be strong. Secretary Anderson frankly admits knowing little of the intricate, detailed problems of agriculture, or of the complicated machinery which makes the Department of Agriculture one of the biggest administrative jobs in civilian Government.

Hutson is the man who will fill this gap. He brings to Anderson an intimate personal knowledge of the functions and personnel of USDA. Hutson won his spurs in 1933 as head of AAA's tobacco section, worked his way up to assistant AAA chief, became head of CCC, and more recently learned the ins and outs of food in international politics as agricultural deputy to War Mobilization Director Vinson.

Hutson was in Europe studying tobacco markets when the New Deal came into power. The story is told of him that when he heard of the New Deal farm reforms, he packed his bags and started home without waiting for orders, remarking: "They're going to need someone with brains back there."

UNDER THE SURFACE IN WASHINGTON

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Postwar potential in jobs and markets . . .

Almost simultaneously, WPB Chairman Krug and Reconversion and War Mobilization Director Vinson laid before the American people their separate reports on what the United States can, has, and must continue to achieve in production and distribution of goods and services.

Even the producers must have been astonished at their own might, and the scarcity-at-high-price boys must have been scared out of seven years' excess profits.

Reported WPB Chairman Krug:

In 1944, the U. S. had more than 11 million of its young men and women under arms.

But still we produced nearly half of all the world's munitions. We turned out $199 billion worth of goods and services, at 1944 prices, or $135 billion worth at 1939 prices—either is a record.

We still fed, clothed and sheltered U. S. civilians better than any others in the world. Civilians got $97.6 billion worth of goods and services at 1944 prices, or $68.3 billion worth at 1939 prices—exceeded slightly only in our last pre-war year, 1941.

Living 50 percent better . . .

Reported Vinson:

"After the war, the American economy must be dynamic, with expanding business, expanding markets, expanding employment, and opportunity.

"The American people are in the pleasant predicament of having to learn to live 50 per cent better than they have ever lived before. Only the defeatist can scoff at the inescapable fact that we must build our economy on that basis."

Those who like to sing "carry me back to the good old days" got a Vinson reminder that their tune is sour: "In many ways we do want to go back to the comforts and pleasures of peacetime America. But as far as our national economy is concerned, it would be disastrous to go back, for we would be going back to the misery of mass unemployment."

Expansion must be brought about, said Vinson, "by positive policies on the part of business, agriculture, labor and local, state and federal governments. . . . The time to start hammering out these policies is now."

The Vinson program . . .

Here's the 9-point economic charter Vinson proposed:

1. Modernize the tax laws to help achieve stable, high levels of employment and production.
2. Foster small business and encourage birth of new business.
3. A fair, vigorous anti-monopoly program.
4. Reduce industrial strife, broaden minimum wage laws, encourage a high wage policy.
5. Break down artificial barriers to trade.
6. Broaden and expand unemployment compensation, old-age pensions, health and education programs by federal, state and local government.
7. Assure farm people opportunity to enjoy the same standard of living, health and educational facilities as the rest of the American people.
8. Tie in long-term program of public works with the Government's fiscal policy; encourage a far greater volume than ever before of private housing construction.
9. Adopt a fiscal policy aimed at maintaining full or nearly full employment, and coordinating all Government programs that have either an inflationary or deflationary effect.

What of postwar?

Expanding on his farm program point, the Reconversion Director pointed out that during the war farm production rose 30 per cent while the number of people living on farms fell 20 per cent.

This is a proud record, but it "suggests that after the war there will be a problem of finding markets for farm produce or of making basic agricultural readjustments."

Without full employment, even present price supports would be hard put to prevent disastrous price dips, and full employment is needed to make jobs for excess farm population.

The Government must make good its price support promises, said Vinson, but he urged that "most thorough study" be given to the idea of letting prices decline to free market levels, even though below supports and the difference be made up in direct payments to farmers.

Vinson argued that this would encourage consumption, permit competition in world markets, and open the way to steer farmers away from unprofitable crops by adjusting the payments.

Washington expects . . .

A reorganization plan to keep farm credit management within Department of Agriculture, page 1.

Anderson to adopt a more cautious approach to farm prices than many have been led to expect, page 2.

Revival of interest in Voorhis bill to consolidate county farm program agencies, page 2.

OPA to develop a plan for liquidating farm and food subsidies, page 3.

Billion dollar farm machinery market for five years after the war, page 4.

Allocations of feed grains to conserve supplies for livestock production next year, page 4.

Anderson aims to keep farm credit under his own roof . . .

A credit reorganization plan which would keep farm credit within the Department of Agriculture will be worked out and proposed by fall, when hearings are to be resumed on the Flannagan Agricultural Credit Agency "independence" measure (HR 3422). The Flannagan bill is likely to be abandoned, or rewritten to incorporate the new suggestions.

Secretary Anderson has let Chairman Flannagan of the House Agriculture Committee know that he thinks farm credit belongs in the Department. Anderson probably swings enough White House weight to make this view Administration policy. And fewer, not more, agencies is

the President's idea in Government reorganization anyhow.

Anderson's strategy is not to oppose the Flannagan bill specifically, but to stand on the principle of keeping credit allied with the farm programs of the Department.

Farm Credit Administration people themselves are split on the Flannagan bill. A number of the district bank directors, testifying just before Flannagan closed hearings until fall, opposed it.

One counter suggestion that might be considered is to name an additional Assistant Secretary of Agriculture to have general charge of all farm lending operations, without changing the organization of Farm Credit, Farm Security, Rural Electrification Adm. or Commodity Credit Corp.

New Secretary is a man farmers take a shine to . . .

Clinton P. Anderson, the tall, bespectacled man who now sits behind the big walnut desk in the office of the Secretary of Agriculture, is the kind of man most farmers instinctively take a shine to when they first meet him.

Anderson is friendly; makes you feel right at home. After talking with him for five minutes you forget that you are Joe Doakes, farmer, and he is the Government big shot running one of the biggest cabinet jobs in Washington.

He is practical. He hates red tape. He makes up his mind in a hurry. He listens to competent advice. You have the feeling that he wants to hear your own particular story, and the closer you are to the grass roots the more interested he is in it.

You come away from a talk with Anderson feeling that he has let you in on something "special," that he's a "right guy," that he's going to do his best to give you a fair break, that you probably wouldn't get mad at him, *personally*, even if he did make some busts in office.

On political "honeymoon" . . .

Anderson, like President Truman, is enjoying a political "honeymoon." How long it lasts depends as much upon the weather as upon the new Secretary himself. More than anything else, the weather is going to decide whether food production can be increased—whether farmers will have enough feed to expand livestock production, or just enough to skin by with about the same numbers they've now got.

Secretary Anderson is still feeling his way along. He is noticeably more cautious as Secretary of Agriculture than he was as chairman of the House Food Investigating Committee, whose activities almost overnight pushed him into the public spotlight and President Truman's new cabinet.

The farm and food problem looks a good deal different from the side of the desk where you have responsibility than from the side where you prescribe remedies.

But Washington is marking it up to the credit of the new Secretary that he hasn't rushed into effect all the recommendations made by his House Food Committee.

Some of them may be workable and eventually adopted. Others Anderson may find he wants to throw out. In any case, the new farm boss is taking a careful look before making any major leaps.

Feed-livestock study . . .

At the moment, the Secretary is concerned with three problems:

(1) Increasing food production. Anderson is taking a close bearing on the feed situation before adopting any measures that might increase livestock numbers beyond the point of feed safety. He wants to be pretty sure that this year's corn crop is safe before deciding on any expanded livestock program.

This indicates, at least for the present, a more cautious approach to the question of farm prices than many farmers have been led to expect. But it doesn't rule out certain price adjustments which Anderson feels are needed—slight increases for butter and eggs, for instance.

On hogs and cattle, the proposal to shift "rollback" subsidy payments from processors to producers is still under consideration. You shouldn't count definitely on the plan going through, but it is indicative of current thinking that OPA has been asked to work up a specific program.

The proposed dollar a hundred direct subsidy to lamb producers is also up for an early decision. The subsidy would have been announced by now had there been funds available.

All or most of the subsidy money authorized by Congress has been committed. Unless new funds are granted, or money transferred from some other source, an increase in price ceiling on lamb and mutton is likely. In any case, sheepmen are in line for a better price break before many weeks.

Distribution leaks . . .

(2) Plugging the leaks in the distribution system. Anderson is dead set on breaking up the black market, especially in meats, if he can, and making more effective use of the food already on hand.

He is reviewing allocations. He is putting the squeeze on the military to force the armed services into buying practices that will permit a more even distribution of food to civilians.

For instance, Anderson wants the Army to procure meat during the fall and winter months when the market runs are heavy, and taper off its purchases more sharply than in the past during the spring and summer when the runs are light.

Anderson also wants the Army, and any other Government agency procuring food, actually to pay for the food allocated to it—in effect to put up the cash when they ask for food to be set aside. This not only would help to spread the cost burden of price supports, but Anderson also figures it would have a sobering effect on requests for allocations.

Unscrambling USDA . . .

(3) Reorganizing the Department of Agriculture. Undersecretary J. B. Hutson has been named general manager of farm and food programs and is taking over active direction.

This frees Anderson of much of the time-consuming detail of administrative work, permits him to use most of his time in formulating policy and handling the all-important relations with Congress.

Anderson is going much deeper than this. USDA has grown up like Topsy in the last 12 years. During the war, bureau has been piled on bureau. This isn't as bad as many paint it, but there is the inevitable duplication of work and a badly disorganized administrative system at the top.

The new Secretary has a panel of four outside "experts" and six USDA men working on reorganization plans. The outsiders are Milton Eisenhower, president of Kansas State College, Ed Gaumnitz of the National Cheese Institute in Chicago, Gerry Thorne, vice-president of Wilson & Co., Chicago, and Jesse Tapp, with the Gianinni banking interests in California. All are "graduates" of USDA.

In addition, Anderson unofficially is calling on a few other outsiders for counsel, including Milo Perkins, originator of the food stamp plan and now a trade consultant.

Watch the counties . . .

Most of the public attention so far has centered on reorganization at the top in Washington. There will be a realignment of top jobs aiming at a more direct line of administration from Anderson on down. This will be important to the farm groups which have direct dealings with Washington.

But to the rank and file, plans for reorganizing county administration of farm programs is more important. Nobody knows yet just what form this will take. The trend is toward eventual consolidation of all or most of the county agencies dealing with the farmer.

There is a new show of interest in the

bill of Jerry Voorhis (D., Cal.)—H. R. 2115—which would consolidate county Federal farm agencies under an elected board of local farmers.

Farmers Union, long favoring a merger of Federal agencies in the counties and a strengthening of farmer participation in farm program management and policy making, has revived discussion of it.

Recently, both the president of California Farm Bureau, and Noble Clark, chairman of the committee on postwar agricultural policy of the Association of Land Grant Colleges, endorsed the Voorhis bill in principle.

Locking the stable door After the horse is stolen . . .

Several years ago, when cotton picking was finished in southeast Missouri, the cotton laborers found themselves broke and homeless, camping on roadsides with winter at hand. The situation was explosive and the community demanded that "something be done."

Farm Security Adm. built 580 plain little houses, each with garden space, and rented them cheaply to the out-of-luck workers. They were called Delmo Labor Homes.

Then the war-time farm labor act was passed, Farm Security forced out of the farm labor and housing field, and the Delmo Labor Homes turned over to the Office of Labor. Under pressure the Office of Labor gave them back to Farm Security, which had been ordered by Congress to liquidate all its projects.

The tenants in the homes say it was a move by cotton planters to get workers back under their thumb through control over their homes.

Farm Security has advertised the homes for sale, July 24. They are to be torn down or moved away.

"Why can't we buy our homes and pay for them a little at a time?" ask the Delmo residents. The Government makes that kind of a deal with farmers under the Farm Tenant Act and Farm Credit mortgages. It does the same for city people under the Home Owners Loan Corp. and Federal Housing loans.

Missouri Senators Briggs and Donnell introduced a bill to permit this, but haven't pressed the measure. A similar bill by Congressman Frank Hook of Michigan isn't getting anywhere in committee under Congressman Zimmerman of Missouri.

The horse was really stolen in 1943 when the farm labor peonage act was passed. The liberals, who have rallied now to help lock the stable door by saving Delmo homes, didn't get mad enough soon enough.

Question: How and when can subsidies be ended?

War-time subsidies on farm and food products, beginning in 1941 and until the close of the Government's fiscal year June 30, have totaled more than $2,300,000,000.

Bitterly fought at first, these subsidies are now accepted as a war-time device for getting production while keeping the cost of living reasonably under control. Congress has okayed them, though setting limits on the sums to be used.

Now the Government's economists are beginning to think about how and when subsidies of this kind can be ended. Liquidating them will not be a simple job. Some may last a long time.

There's no fixed date in anyone's mind for terminating farm and food subsidies. Nearest answer to when it will be done is simply when they are no longer regarded as necessary.

Some kind of a tapering-off process is assumed, but no one is clear yet on how to taper off without upsetting the whole structure of farm prices, and while keeping consumers reasonably happy. Both farmers and consumers have strong pressure blocs and neither Congress nor administrative agencies want to have a fight with either.

A plan's in the mill . . .

Chester Bowles said the other day that his OPA staff is preparing recommendations to be checked with the Department of Agriculture, RFC, and the Office of Economic Stabilization, for liquidating subsidies.

"In many cases," said Bowles, "elimination of wartime strains and war-inflated costs will make it possible for us to drop the subsidies without any decrease in the returns to the grower or any increase in the prices to the consumer.

"There will, of course, be some cases in which costs will remain high. In these cases, it will be our objective to protect the grower's returns even though it means an increase in the prices to the consumer. As far as practicable, we shall, of course, time these adjustments so that they will not upset the general stabilization level."

The subsidy chain . . .

Dairy subsidies are now paid on milk and butterfat to farmers, on butter to creameries, on cheese to cheesemakers, and on milk to distributors in 13 big milksheds. Meat subsidies are paid on cattle to feeders, on hogs and cattle to packers, and on flour to millers.

There are, or have been, subsidies on apples and pears, beans, corn, sugar, fruits and vegetables for processing, hay for dairymen, millfeed, cotton linters, peanut butter, peanuts, shortening, soybeans and other vegetable oils and meals, and wheat.

In addition to these, loan or purchase-and-resale operations have had the effect of subsidies on a considerable list of other products. Some subsidies are paid to processors, some to producers; some are tagged for specific increased costs, such as transportation, dairy feed, shelling corn. Some are to offset more general costs. Defense Supplies Corp. (RFC) pays some, Commodity Credit Corp. pays others.

Grease on the wheel . . .

All of them, however, boil down to this: The processor (or the producer) says his costs have gone up so he can't process (or produce) and sell for the ceiling price. But if the ceiling price goes up, then workers say that increases their costs and they'll have to have more wages. Wages mean more production costs—and the inflation circle.

So "producer squeeze" subsidies or "processor squeeze" subsidies are put in like grease on the wheel that needs it the worst, or squeals the loudest.

The recently added cattle subsidy payments to packers have an automatic self-reducing feature. On some grades of cattle, for example, the packer's subsidy goes down 4 cents for each nickel less he pays for cattle. Something of the same kind might be done in the pork subsidy.

The "rollback" subsidy payment to millers is regulated according to the monthly price of wheat, would wipe itself out if wheat goes down.

There's no automatic end provided for the other subsidies to processors, even though prices they pay farmers should go down. However, the canners' subsidy is geared to price supports guaranteed to farmers.

Up, down, or squeeze . . .

Administrative or Congressional action could end processor subsidies—but first consumer prices would have to go up, farmers' prices go down, or processors be made to stand the squeeze.

There's some talk now of translating processor subsidies on meat and butter into producer subsidies.

Toughest political and economic problem of all is how to liquidate the producer subsidies. In the background is the pledge of Congress to war-crop producers that they will receive at least 90 percent of parity until two years after hostilities end. In practice, support prices are considerably better than that, and extend beyond the proclaimed war crops.

As long as prices at the grocery store are trying to go up through ceilings, subsidies could be eliminated by letting prices go on up, but this is not politically feasible, and probably not economically, while the nation is fighting both the Japs and inflation.

When the turn comes, consumer prices will begin to fall below ceilings The

"ceiling" then will be what consumers will pay. Then the trick will be to keep prices from rolling back and smashing down through farmers' prices.

At that time, subsidies will become a device for holding farmers' prices up in a falling market, rather than for keeping down consumer prices in a rising market.

The shoe will be on the other foot—consumers will complain about the cost of subsidies. The Government will be looking for places and ways to dispose of continuing high production rolling off farms under the inducement of pretty good support prices. It will not be feasible politically—and maybe not economically—to reduce farmers' income.

At the same time, the Government would be looking for a way to reduce its subsidy commitments, perhaps by some method of limiting the payment of price-support subsidies to each farm's allotted share of a total production goal.

Maybe the answer to "when and how will subsidies be liquidated" will be put off further than anyone now thinks.

At any rate, Government economists will think long and hard before they come up with any easy way to liquidate subsidies.

Billion dollar a year farm machinery market . . .

Twenty percent fewer people on farms boosted wartime production 30 percent above prewar years, according to studies reported by War Mobilization and Reconversion Director Vinson.

Not only that, but the 1944 farm worker wasn't as well trained or as physically able, on the average, as before the war.

How come the increase?

In spite of the well-advertised shortage, farm machinery appears to have been a big end of the answer, though not all. Harder work, good growing seasons, and more fertilizer also helped

But even in the war years, 1942 through 1944, tractors on farms increased 12 percent, and there were comparable increases in tractor-tillage equipment.

With comparatively large cash reserves, farmers are expected to buy more than a billion dollars worth of farm machinery a year for five years after the war.

Farmers started 1945 with just over two million tractors. By 1950, it's now estimated, they will be using two and a half million. It will take around 50,000 tractors a year to replace disappearing work stock, and another 100,000 a year to replace worn out and obsolete tractors. Ten years hence the replacement rate may be 200,000 a year.

In 1940, the last time they were counted, the Great Plains states had 61 tractors per 100 farms. Corn Belt and Lake State farmers had 42 and 44 tractors, respectively, per 100 farms.

Boys coming back from a mechanized Army will go for engine power more than ever before.

This is only one of the reasons farm officials here are anxious for Congress to adopt measures which will insure a high level of production and employment during the postwar period.

Farmers aren't likely to obtain the machinery they need and want on family-sized farms unless industrial policy is high production and fair price. Neither are they likely to have markets for what they and their machines can produce without the same policy, which includes full employment at fair wages.

Farm business—as it looks from Washington . . .

Grains: Secretary Anderson is beginning to tighten up on grains, one of his first steps being to ask WPB for a firm commitment on the amount of grain that will be needed next year for industrial alcohol.

This move is one of several preliminary to adoption of a plan to allocate feed grains. General aim is to trim down on exports of grains in short supply, to help curb speculation in rye, to conserve feed grains for livestock production next year.

Foreign demand for feed grains has skyrocketed since victory in Europe. If USDA were to grant all overseas requests for feeds, domestic supplies would dry up almost overnight.

Flax: Tentative recommendations for next year's flax acreage are for 3 to 3½ million acres, compared with a 5 million acre goal this year.

But increases in acreage will be sought in the early producing states—California, Arizona and Texas.

This tentative and still unofficial flax goal is based on prospects of importing more linseed from Argentina, getting South Pacific oils flowing back into this country in small volume by some time next year.

Surplus trucks: Out of the 30,000 light and medium surplus trucks Army recently announced it would turn over to Commerce Department for disposal, a little more than 6,000 are now in surplus inventories, and nearly 5,000 ready for sale. They include everything from jeeps to 10-ton diesels.

An estimated 100,000 more Army trucks will be declared surplus during the last six months of this year. Agriculture is putting the pressure on Surplus War Property Board to turn more trucks loose for sales to farmers in areas where production is hampered by transportation difficulties.

Agriculture is meeting somewhat stiffer resistance at Surplus Property Board since Chairman Gillette turned in his resignation, effective today. Secretary Anderson is expected to throw his weight behind Agriculture's requests a little later on.

Signs of the times—Corporate profits doubled . . .

WAR & PROFITS: Corporate profits in peacetime—1936 to 1939 average—were $2,577,000,000. During the period of conversion to war, 1942, they were $7,443,000,000. In 1943, a period of all-out war, they were $8,842,000,000, after taxes, more than double the profits of 1939.

In 1944, corporate profits rose another 2½ per cent over record-breaking 1943. The first quarter of 1945 showed a little drop in rate, but profits of price-controlled industry continued to rise. Both big and little industries shared the rise. Figures were compiled by OPA.

SUBSIDY NOTE: Most fourth-class mail consists of mail-order house catalogs. Fourth-class mail doesn't pay its way. The effect is a subsidy of about $1,000,000 a year to mail order businesses. In 1928 Congress told the Postoffice Department to make fourth-class mail pay its way. Nothing happened, so now the House has passed a bill upping fourth-class rates 20 per cent.

ELECTRIC POWER RATES: Federal Power Commission's annual rate report again shows electric power costs least from municipally owned plants and in the TVA area. Lowest bill for 15 kwh was 50 cents, by the Hamilton, Ohio, municipal plant; highest, $1.32, by a Connecticut private utility.

PROFIT & VOLUME: Only one home out of seven built just before the war was in the $2,000 to $4,000 class, which is the best that one out of two American families can afford. But one home in eight was in the $8,000 to $10,000 class which only one American family in 50 can afford. Seems that either builders didn't learn from automakers that there's more money in lots of $500 cars than a few $5,000 cars, or else there's no money in building homes that Americans can afford.

"HOW I WON THE WAR": Government public relations men (who are writing them) wearily say there'll be a rash of books by their bosses on "How I Won the War at $1 a Year."

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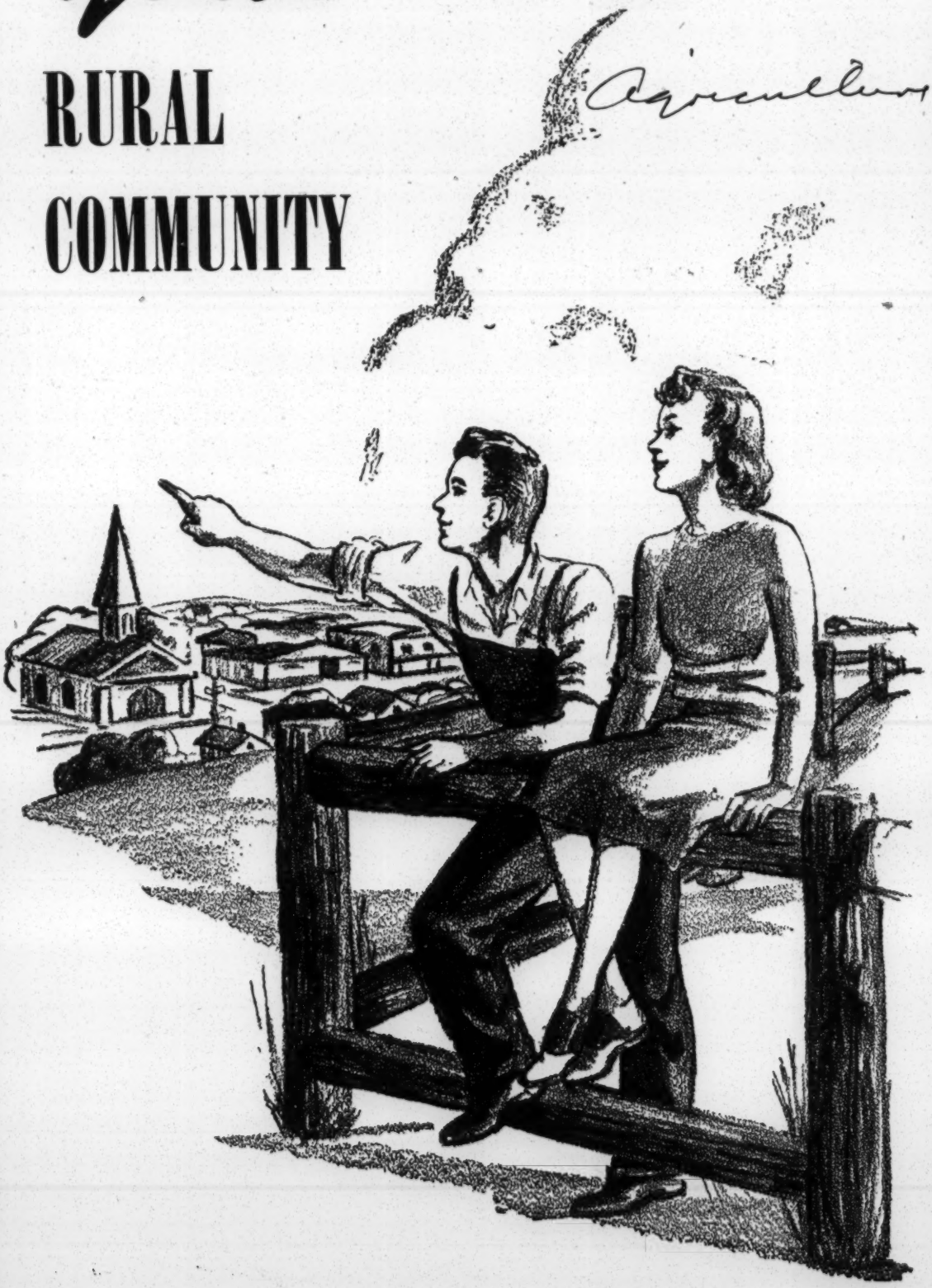

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